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Arrests of North Korean Leaders

1. In September and October 1951 the following North Korean political and religious leaders were under arrest or being sought by North Korean authorities as fugitives:

CHO Man-sik (曹萬植),<sup>1</sup> chairman of the North Korean Democratic Party (Puk Chosun Minju Tang).

KANG Chin-kön (姜鎮乾),<sup>1</sup> representative of the Farmer's League (Nongmin Tongmaeng).

KIM Se-yön (金世延), secretary-general of the Buddhist Party (Pulkyo Chongmu Wön).

KIM Tai-hyön (金達鉉),<sup>1</sup> representative of the Heavenly Way Youth Friendship Party (Ch'ondo-kyo Chong U Tang).

PAK Chon-sun, representative of the Christian Alliance (Kitök-kyö Yonmaeng).

YI Yön-u (李延雨), on the staff of the North Korean Democratic Party.

2. In mid-October 1951 the North Korean Ministry of Social Security instructed all detachments of the ministry at provincial and county (gun) levels to call meetings, on the same day, of all staff members of Buddhist organizations. The pretext for

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calling these meetings was to rally the Buddhist leaders and enable them to show their support for the North Korean government. In reality, however, the leaders were to be arrested and imprisoned as soon as they arrived, because of the underground reactionary activities in which they were involved. Among those arrested in October were NA Ung (羅雄), an official of the Drama League (Yonhak Tongmaeng), and HAN Sol-ya (韓雪野),<sup>1</sup> an official of the Literary Men's League (Mun Hakka Tongmaeng). Because of these arrests, members and officials of other religious groups and of various social and educational organizations feared that the arrests might extend to their groups.<sup>2</sup>

#### Concentration Camp for Political Prisoners

3. In December 1951 a concentration camp for political prisoners which also held some ordinary law-breakers was at Mat'an-ni, in Hasong-myon (125-45, 38-10) (YG-4127). The prisoners were confined in mine shafts and tunnels in Mat'an-ni. The camp, which held about 3,000 prisoners, 540 of them women, was called a People's Orientation Station (Inmin Kyohwa-So) although actually it was a prison for North Koreans who had collaborated with the ROK army or ROK guerrillas, 80 percent of the prisoners being so classified. The others were charged with various other infractions of the law. Almost half of the prisoners had been farmers, a slightly small number were merchants and others who were considered members of the middle class, and ten percent were adherents of various religious sects. Only five percent of the prisoners were laborers by occupation. The camp was established in January 1951.
4. Suspects were merely detained and were not required to do any work. They were furnished two meals a day of about 500 grams of food each. All convicted prisoners were engaged in forced labor, building Tochkas (pillboxes), repairing roads, or straw weaving. The convicts received three meals a day of about 700 grams each. The food was usually one-fifth rice and corn, one-fifth soy beans, one-fifth millet, and the other two-fifths usually sorghum. Occasionally only wheat or barley was available. The prisoners' day started at 6:00 a.m. and ended at 8:00 p.m. The Labor News (Nodong Sinmun) was available to them for study. About 20 percent of the prisoners were critically ill, and because of the lack of medicines and medical attention an average of 20 were dying daily in December. One guard, a sergeant who was armed with a rifle, stood at the main gate during the day, and two guards were on duty at night. There were 300 guards at the camp. Many of the prisoners hoped for United Nations' bombing raids which would enable them to escape in the confusion.
5. The officer in charge of the camp was KIM Ch'ang-kil (金昌吉), aged 51, who was assisted by a deputy. The chief of the Administration Section was YI Kil-ho (李吉鎬), aged 24; the chief of the Accounting Section was PAK Tong-kil (朴東吉); and O (fnu), aged 32, was in charge of the Medical Section. The staff of the camp included officers of the Ministry of Social Security, the North Korean army, and the police.

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1.   Comment. CHO Man-sik has been confined or imprisoned by the North Korean government for several years, and it is not clear whether   he had escaped. Other persons mentioned in this report on whom there is previously reported information are listed below:

HAN Sol-ya in 1950 was editor of Democratic Korea, official organ of the North Korean Supreme People's Committee, and other cultural propaganda publications, and chairman of the North Korean Literature and Arts Union. HAN was a member

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of the domestic, or national, faction of the Labor Party, according to [redacted]  
His arrest might signify increased action against this faction:

KANG Chin-kon was chairman of the North Korean Farmers Alliance in 1950,  
[redacted]

KIM Tal-hyon in 1949 was a member of the Central Committee of the Fatherland  
Unification Democratic Front, and chairman of the Ch'ondo-kyo Chong U Tang.  
He was a member of the domestic faction in North Korea, [redacted]  
presumably he was not a member of the Labor Party, however, but merely  
supported the more nationalistic policies of that group.

2. [redacted] Comment. A meeting to rally support for the North Korean government among  
Christian groups and to elect leaders of these groups was held in P'yongyang  
on 15 November, [redacted] The move was initiated by the North  
Korean Supreme People's Council.

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